



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 P.O. Box 390, Fredonia, KS 66736  
 620-378-2161  
 www.radiantec.coop

# RADIANT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Hi-LITES

## Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Board of Trustees

- Loren Dickens**  
President
- Tom Ayers**  
Vice President
- David Engelman**  
Secretary-Treasurer
- Nick Frankenbery**  
Trustee
- Sandy Smith**  
Trustee
- Michael Springer**  
Trustee
- Carol Wehmeyer**  
Trustee

### Staff

- Leah M. Tindle**  
Administrative Manager
- Dennis Duft**  
Operations Manager
- Cash Baker**
- Ed Bambick**
- April Engstrom**
- Ann Fitzmorris**
- Jacob Gillum**
- Cindy Holinsworth**
- Ryan Huser**
- Larry McVey**
- Allen Miller**
- Jeff Reed**
- Becky Schwatken**
- Glen Seiler**
- Benny Stephens**
- Brian Sumner**
- Tracy Tindle**

### Contact Us

9346 Jewell Rd, P.O. Box 390  
 Fredonia, KS 66736  
 620-378-2161  
 www.radiantec.coop

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Nominating Committee Appointed

The Bylaws of Radiant Electric provide that the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee, which will select the candidates for the Trustees' positions expiring in the year 2017.

The Board of Trustees has appointed the members listed above to the Nominating Committee.

The terms of **LOREN DICKENS**, District 2, Position 4; **NICK FRANKENBERY**, District 3, Position 6; and **MICHAEL SPRINGER**, At Large, Position 7 will expire as of the date of the next Annual Meeting of Members, Thursday, April 6, 2017.

The Nominating Committee will tentatively meet in mid-January for the purpose of committee organization. The committee will reconvene approximately two weeks after to nominate a slate of candidates to elect three Trustees to serve a three-year term on the Radiant Electric Board of Trustees.

The committee members will then prepare and post at the cooperative office, at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting, a list of nominations for Trustees consisting of two nominations for each Trustee position to be filled by the

### 2017 Nominating Committee

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| ▶ <b>LEE BRACKEN</b><br>9811 Edwards Rd.<br>Fredonia, KS 66736<br>620-378-2334  | ▶ <b>LARRY FELTS</b><br>3405 CR 4700<br>Liberty, KS 67351<br>620-485-3236      | ▶ <b>TONY SIGNER</b><br>14170 Harper Rd.<br>Fredonia, KS 66736<br>620-378-0207 |
| ▶ <b>SHELDON EISELE</b><br>9124 Ottawa Rd.<br>Altoona, KS 66710<br>620-205-9745 | ▶ <b>PAUL NELSEN</b><br>15195 Finney Rd.<br>Fredonia, KS 66736<br>620-378-3759 | ▶ <b>WILLIAM RACY</b><br>5569 CR 5600<br>Cherryvale, KS 67335<br>620-336-3376  |

selection.

The Nominating Committee Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of Annual Meeting, a ballot listing the candidates nominated by the committee. Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

Nominations made by petition, if any, must be received at least 30 days before the mailing of ballots to be included on the official ballot. The results of the Nominating Committee process will be published in *Kansas Country Living*.

Radiant members will elect three candidates by mail ballot. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held at the Radiant Electric headquarters on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

## Are You Paying More than Your Fair Share in Taxes?

Did you know that some electricity purchases are exempt from sales tax? Are you taking advantage of all the eligible exemptions? Are you at risk for a sales tax assessment if your farm or business is audited by the Kansas Department of Revenue?

Sales taxes, along with income and property taxes, are collected by state and local governments to fund public services and infrastructure like public buildings, roads, schools, parks, libraries, police and fire protection. While we are required to pay our fair share, no one should pay more than is required.

### Sales Tax Rates

Sales tax rates vary across the state depending on where the purchase is made. The Kansas state sales tax is 6.50 percent, and most counties and cities charge an additional amount. Depending on your location, county and city rates combined can be an additional 2 to 3 percent. Sales taxes can add 9 percent or more to your electric bill.

### Exemptions

Not all electricity purchases are taxed the same. It depends on whether the electricity is used in a home or a business, for agricultural use, in a commercial or office building, for pumping oil, in a factory and “consumed in production” or in a not-for-profit nursing home, just to name a few examples. Furthermore, some uses are exempt from state taxes, but not local taxes.

Electricity Use	State	Local
<b>Residential</b>	Exempt	Taxable
<b>Agricultural</b> E.g. Barn lighting, outdoor area lighting, building HVAC in non-production areas, water heating for washing dairy equipment, maintenance shop use (air compressor, power tools, welder, grinder, engine heater, etc.), and fence charger.	Exempt	Taxable
<b>Oil production</b>	Exempt	Exempt
<b>Not-for-profit hospitals, nursing facilities &amp; children's homes</b>	Exempt	Exempt
<b>Commercial</b>	Taxable	Taxable
<b>Consumed in production</b> E.g. Manufacturing facilities, irrigation of crops, pumping water and grinding feed for livestock, milking and processing equipment, grain handling and drying, and building HVAC for animal confinement facilities.	Exempt	Exempt
<b>Schools, government &amp; churches</b>	Exempt	Exempt

And if that’s not complicated enough, some consumers can exempt only part of their use. It can be confusing! Most of the categories are self-explanatory, but “agricultural use” and “consumed in production” can overlap and are often misunderstood.

### Agricultural Use

Like residential use, agricultural use is exempt from state taxes, but not local taxes. Agricultural use is electricity used on the farm or ranch related to growing or raising of agricultural commodities for resale such as livestock, poultry, fish and bees, grains, feed, fruits, vegetables and plants.

### Consumed in Production Use

While all electricity used on the farm or ranch qualifies as agricultural use and exempt from state taxes, some uses will additionally qualify as “consumed in production” and are exempt from both state and local taxes. In order for electricity to be considered “consumed in production,” it:

1. Must be essential or necessary;
2. Must be used in the actual process;
3. Must be immediately consumed;
4. Must be used in the production of tangible personal property; and
5. Cannot be reusable. Shipping, testing, repairing, servicing, maintaining, cleaning the equipment and physical plant and storing do not qualify for the consumed in production exemption.

### Exemption Certificate

Other than residential use, all other exemptions are not automatic. You must complete and submit an exemption certificate to your electricity provider before you can receive exemption. You can download a copy of Form ST-28B from the Kansas Department of Revenue’s website or request a copy from the cooperative’s office. You do not need to submit an exemption form to claim the residential exemption. All other exemptions require a completed form. In some cases, you may have both exempt and non-exempt uses on the same meter. In that case, you must claim a partial exemption that must be accompanied by a utility study supporting the partial exemption percentage.

Sales taxes can be complicated; your tax adviser can help you determine whether you are missing out on any sales tax exemptions.

## Mark Your Calendars for April 6, 2017

Mark your calendar for the Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of Members to be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Radiant Headquarters at 9346 Jewell Rd., Fredonia. Registration begins at 5 p.m. followed by an evening meal and the annual meeting.

**We hope to see you there!**

April 2017						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Becky Schwatken

Billing Clerk, 4 Years at Radiant

#### DESCRIBE YOUR

**JOB:** Calculate electric bills, payments, sales tax, disconnects/reconnects, reports, service orders and general billing questions.



Becky Schwatken

#### WHAT IS YOUR

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

Getting to know the members.

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Elk City, but Fredonia is where I attended school.

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF WORK?** Anything outside, spending time with family and my three dogs.

**WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB?** A state level politician to help Kansans.

**ASIDE FROM RADIANT, WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING JOB YOU'VE**

**EVER HAD?** I started a nonprofit organization called Fredonia Pound Pals to help find homes for animals. It is the most interesting and rewarding job I have had.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS?** Seeing Fredonia Pound Pals become successful has been a joy.

In two years, our organization has facilitated the adoption of over 138 animals and helped with improvements to the city's pound facility. Another accomplishment was buying my own land and cattle.

**WHAT IS THE BEST BOOK YOU HAVE EVER READ?** The Bible

**WHAT ARE THREE THINGS THAT MAY SURPRISE PEOPLE ABOUT YOU?** I love my cattle, and most were

bottle calves that I raised. One of my favorite things to do is to go fishing. I have a soft spot for children and animals.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT OUR MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT RADIANT ELECTRIC?** At Radiant, we are truly here

to serve the members to the best of our abilities. In everything we do, we strive for the best member experience possible.

## Linemen Assist with Building Move

On December 12, Radiant linemen **CASH BAKER** and **JAKE GILLUM** assisted with a building move.

The two-man crew raised electric lines on 5500 Road as the Cherry Township Hall building was moved to 169 Highway. From there it moved to 4800 Road in Montgomery County with the assistance of Westar.



Radiant lineman, Jake Gillum raises the electric line that allows the building to move safely beneath it.

## Apply Today for Radiant Electric Scholarships

The Radiant Electric Board of Trustees has approved \$5,000 total for the 2017-2018 Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc. Merit Scholarship. The application is now available at [www.radiantec.coop](http://www.radiantec.coop)

## Welcome New Radiant Electric Members

Trevor Chism – *Buffalo*

Michael Cunningham – *Buffalo*

John Hughes – *Buffalo*

Cory Ruby – *Buffalo*

Devin McNown – *Caney*

Phillip Carter – *Chanute*

Jonathan Matthews – *Cherryvale*

Jason Darnell – *Coffeyville*

Chet Wilson – *Coffeyville*

Austin Myers – *Independence*

Jeff Brondige – *Howard*

Ronald Pore – *Wichita*

Ascent Midstream Partners, LLC – *Tulsa, OK*

# Local Event Calendar

## ELK CITY

**JANUARY 7 – 25K/12K Run:** Begins at 11 a.m. at Elk City Lake.

## COFFEYVILLE

**JANUARY 26 – Coffeyville Chamber Annual Dinner and Fundraiser:** Holy Name Catholic Church at 408 Willow St. Event begins at 6 p.m.

## Holiday Office Closing



Radiant Electric will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2017, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Please call the after-hours dispatch service at 620-378-2161 or 800-821-0956 for electrical issues or an outage. A Radiant line crew employee will be dispatched to restore your service.

## Co-op Lingo:

### *What is an Arc Flash?*

An **ARC FLASH** is a type of electrical explosion (essentially a short circuit through the air) that usually causes substantial damage, fire, or injury. In an arc flash incident, an enormous amount of concentrated energy explodes outward from electrical equipment. This creates pressure waves that can damage hearing, a high-intensity flash that can destroy eyesight, and a super-heated ball of gas that can blast molten metal, tools, and other objects through the air and severely burn an unprotected worker's body. The temperature of an arc flash sometimes reaches 35,000 degrees Fahrenheit—about four times hotter than the surface of the sun. The 2007 National Electrical Safety Code required all electric distribution utilities in states that have adopted the code to perform assessments by January 1, 2009, to determine the potential exposure of line workers and other field personnel to arc-flash hazards and identify protective clothing needs. Electric cooperatives that are federal Rural Utilities Service borrowers must comply with all sections of the National Electrical Safety Code.

# Energy Savings for Every Season

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal varies by season. There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home and desired comfort levels.

## Fall and winter: keeping heat in

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, you can take simple steps to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and increase energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy, this

small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

## Spring and summer: keeping your cool

During warmer months, energy savings and efficiency will require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a climate that is cool, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and sunlight in winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by

creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor

**There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home and desired comfort levels.**

thermostat setting. To lessen the difference in temperature between the two—and to lower cooling costs—set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Moreover, using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting approximately four degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The wasted heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates unwanted heat. For additional energy savings and efficiency, employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or when your family is sleeping.